

Message Text

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43

ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 COME-00 HEW-06 DOTE-00 EB-07

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R 221300Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9930

UNCLAS JIDDA 0501

PASS: TREASURY FOR PARSKY, COMMERCE FOR HOSTLER, NBS

REPEAT NBS FOR FOR NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS,

FDA REPEAT FDA

E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: USSASC, EAID, SA, US

SUBJ: US/SAUDI-JOINT COMMISSION: STANDARDS ADVISOR

REF : STATE 264341; JIDDA 6899; STATE 1751

SUMMARY: BATES AND BEACHAM NOMINATION IS WELCOME NEWS. SASO STATES PROPOSAL DESCRIBED IN REFTTEL A IS EXACTLY WHAT THEY WANT, AND THEY APPROVE SCHEDULING AND PERSONNEL. FINAL APPROVAL OF COST HAS NOT RPT NOT BEEN RECEIVED, BUT EMBASSY EXPECTS APPROVAL WITHIN 24 HOURS. WE HOPE BATES AND BEACHAM HAVE MET OR WILL MEET WITH MR. KHOURY OF COE BEFORE TRAVELING TO SAUDI ARABIA. LATTER HAS MUCH VALUABLE INFORMATION TO IMPACT WHICH WILL HELP PREPARE TEAM FOR SAUDI EXPERIENCE. FOR PURPOSES OF PLANNING TRAVEL THIS CABLE MAY BE CONSIDERED EMBASSY APPROVAL OF MISSION AND ARRIVAL JIDDA PLANNED FOR ANY TIME AFTER FEBRUARY 1. END SUMMARY.

1. ACTION REQUESTED: WHERE POSSIBLE, FORWARD COPIES OF U.S. STANDARDS LISTED BELOW TO EMBASSY (APO NEW YORK 09697) FOR DELIVERY TO SASO. INFORM EMBASSY OF ETA OF TEAM MEMBERS.

2. EMBASSY AND QUTB (DIRECTOR OF SAUDI ARABIAN STANDARDS ORGANIZATION) ARE PLEASED TO LEARN OF NOMINATIONS OF MR. UNCLASSIFIED

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BATES AND MR. BEACHAM. WE HOPE TEAM HAS SPENT SOME TIME WITH

MR. DAVID KHOURY, CORPS OF ENGINEERS, WHO MET A NUMBER OF OFFICIALS IN SASO AND OTHER MINISTRIES WITH AUTHORITY IN THE STANDARDS AREA. HE CAN PROVIDE MUCH USEFUL INFORMATION. WE UNDERSTAND MR. KHOURY IS RECOMMENDING THAT THE CORPS CONTRACT TO DEVELOP A BUILDING CODE AND CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS FOR SAUDI ARABIA. WE HEARTILY CONCUR. SUCH A PROGRAM SHOULD, OF COURSE, COME AS PART OF THE OVERALL USG EFFORT UNDER THE JOINT COMMISSION, AS QUTB HAS REQUESTED.

3. KHOURY'S EXPERIENCE ALSO EMPHASIZES THE SASO NEED FOR U.S. STANDARDS PUBLICATIONS. WE BELIEVE THE VERY ACT OF PRESENTING OUR SPECIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS AND HAVING THEM ON HAND AS A DATA BASE WILL PREJUDICE SAUDI STANDARDS DEVELOPMENTS IN OUR FAVOR. STANDARDS BASED ON THE U.S. MODEL WILL BE OF OBVIOUS BENEFIT TO U.S. CONTRACTORS, EXPORTERS AND BUSINESSMEN. MR. KHOURY COMMITTED HIMSELF TO OBTAINING A SET OF BUILDING CODES FOR SASO. IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL IF A SET OF NBS STANDARDS COULD BE PROVIDED COINCIDENT TO THE ARRIVAL OF MR. BATES. QUTB HAS ALREADY ORDERED A FULL SET OF ANSI STANDARDS. QUTB IS WRITING NBS SEPARATELY, BUT WE WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE THE BENEFICIAL ASPECTS OF SHIPPING TO HIM WHATEVER CAN BE OBTAINED SOONEST. SASO WOULD, OF COURSE, PAY FOR STANDARDS IF NECESSARY. DELIVERY THROUGH ECONOMIC SECTION, AMERICAN EMBASSY, APO NEW YORK 09697 IS REQUESTED.

4. THE KHOURY REPORT TO THE CORPS, AS WE SAW IT, DOES RAISE SOME QUESTIONS WHICH SHOULD BE CLARIFIED. CONCERNING TRAINING OF SAUDIS IN THE U.S., BY THE NBS, WE HAVE POINTED OUT TO QUTB THAT NBS IS NOT INVOLVED IN LARGE SCALE TRAINING. IN ANY EVENT, WE FEEL QUTB STAFF IS SO THIN THAT HE WILL BE HARD PUT TO SPARE ENGLISH SPEAKING OFFICIALS TO SEND TO THE STATES, WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY CONDUCTING THE PROGRAM HE HAS IN MIND FOR FOREIGN ADVISORS. MR. KHOURY ALSO STATES THAT CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS, AND BUILDING CODES, SHOULD HAVE PRIORITY IN THE KINGDOM. SASO PRIORITIES, AS LISTED IN EARLIER EMBASSY CABLES, HAVE NOT CHANGED. CONSTRUCTION IS STILL HIGH ON THE LIST, BUT IS NOT ALONE. WE SHOULD STRESS AGAIN AT THIS POINT THAT THE CORPS PROGRAM IS SEEN BY QUTB AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF AN OVERALL USG EFFORT TO ASSIST HIS AGENCY, NOT AS A SEPARATE AND UNCOONNECTED PROGRAM.

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5. ALTHOUGH QUTB HAS EXPRESSED HIS PLEASURE AT THE BATES AND BEACHAM APPOINTMENT, WE DO NOT HAVE FINAL APPROVAL OF THE MISSION FROM THE SAUDI COORDINATOR OF THE JOINT COMMISSION. THIS CABL CONSTITUTES EMBASSY APPROVAL, HOWEVER, AND TEAM MAY PLAN TO ARRIVE JIDDA ANY TIME AFTER FEBRUARY 1. PLEASE CABLE ETA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

AKINS

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